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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,463	03/25/2004	Tatsumi Yanai	NS-US045025	4864
22919	7590	10/05/2005	EXAMINER	
SHINJYU GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 20TH STREET, NW, SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036-2680			HUNNINGS, TRAVIS R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2632	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 10/808,463

10/808,463

Applicant(s)

YANAI, TATSUMI

Examiner

Travis R. Hunnings

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 11 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: element 110a in figure 5. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 4, 8, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miki et al. (Miki; Japanese Patent Publication JP-2000-238594A).

Regarding claim 1, Miki discloses *Operation Exchange Equipment* that has the following claimed limitations:

The claimed image acquiring device configured and arranged to acquire images of peripheral side areas of a vehicle equipped with the vehicle surrounding area image system is met by the image pick up equipments acquiring images from around the vehicle (paragraph 6);

The claimed position detecting device configured and arranged to detect a current vehicle position of the vehicle is met by the navigation equipment (paragraph 6);

The claimed startup imaging device configured and arranged to detect predetermined road regions that require one of the images of the peripheral side areas of the vehicle to be displayed based on the current vehicle position detected by the position detecting device as well as map information is met by the control unit displaying an image captured by the image pick up equipments when crossing a road intersection (paragraph 6);

The claimed image displaying device configured and arranged to selectively display one of the images acquired by the image acquiring device before the vehicle enters into one of the predetermined road regions that was detected by the startup

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imaging device is met by the monitor displaying the images captured by the image pickup equipments (paragraph 6).

Regarding claim 4, the claimed startup imaging device being configured and arranged to detect a traffic intersection where at least two roads merge as at least one type of the predetermined road regions is met by the incorporation of the image captured at a road crossing (paragraph 6).

Regarding claim 8, the claimed image displaying device being configured and arranged to selectively display one of the images of the peripheral side areas of the vehicle from among the images acquired by the image acquiring device based on road configuration through one of the predetermined road regions is met by the display device incorporating an image captured by the image pickup equipments into the display of navigation information (paragraph 6).

Regarding claims 13 and 14, the claims are interpreted and rejected as claim 1 stated above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 3, 5-7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki.

Regarding claim 2, Miki discloses displaying an image captured by the image pick up equipments on the display when the vehicle approaches a road crossing to facilitate safe driving (paragraph 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device to display an image at any number of other road intersections where peripheral view is beneficial in navigating the road area safely. These areas would include intersections, merging lanes, on and off ramps for highways, traffic circles and road branches.

Regarding claims 3 and 5-7, the claims are interpreted and rejected as claim 2 stated above.

Regarding claim 10, examiner takes official notice that it is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that a navigation system would include means for being able to configure and arrange the system to set a specific travel route of the vehicle.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 9, 11 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Gutta et al. *System To Aid A Driver To Determine Whether To Change Lanes*,
US Patent 6,424,273;

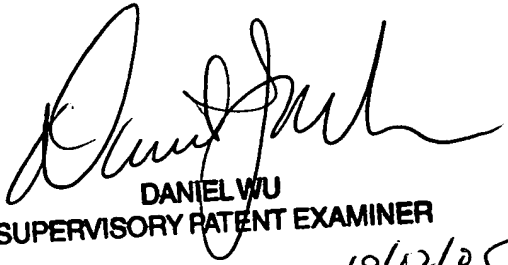
Takagi et al. *Device For Monitoring Area Around Vehicle*, US Patent 6,940,423.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Travis R. Hunnings whose telephone number is (571) 272-3118. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Wu can be reached on (571) 272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TRH


DANIEL WU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
10/12/05